

MAR 9 1964

## Sweeping Infiltration

FOIAb3b

# A Pole Unfolds Tale of Intrigue; Could It Surpass the Hiss Case?

CPYRIGHT

Imagine that Soviet agents have penetrated the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the State Department.

Pretend that U.S. espionage funds in Vienna, more than \$1,000,000 worth, have fallen into the hands of Communists recently.

Consider that U.S. diplomats behind the Iron Curtain have been blackmailed into collaborating with Russia's nefarious secret-police network by beautiful Communist girl friends.

Sound like the plot of a bad spy story? Perhaps. But this was the picture that emerged from a story in a New York newspaper last week, and the story plainly had the Government worried. The reason: It was purportedly based on information from an important U.S. intelligence source, a Polish defector living in New York since 1961 under the assumed name Michael Goleniewski.

### More Famous Than Hiss Case?

Mr. Goleniewski, said New York's Journal-American, was a former high-ranking operative in the Soviet KGB, or secret-police organization, who "has provided Washington with details of what looms as a greater scandal than the famous Alger Hiss case." The paper said he had exposed a series of security breaches in Warsaw, in which U.S. embassy officials and Marine Corps guards were compromised by women working for the Communists.

What made the accusations embarrassing for the Government was the fact that there is indeed a Michael Goleniewski. He was described in Washington as a "valuable defector," whose disclosures going back to 1958 had exposed the activities of several Communist agents operating abroad. He is now a U.S. citizen.

Information supplied by Mr. Goleniewski played a part in the 1961 arrest of Irwin N. Scarbeck, a U.S. foreign-service officer in Warsaw, who was blackmailed by an attractive Polish girl. Scarbeck is now serving a 30-year prison sentence for passing secrets to the Communists.

But the specifics of the charges at-

tributed to Mr. Goleniewski were dismissed in Washington as inaccurate, and contrary to information the defector had actually given American authorities. And those charges were indeed sweeping.

### 'Amateurs and Stalinists'

The newspaper quoted Mr. Goleniewski as saying that the KGB had infiltrated all major American embassies and "every United States agency except the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)." He said further that "little if anything" was being done to weed out Soviet agents, because "amateurs and Stalinists" in the Central Intelligence Agency had refused to bring his revelations to the attention of higher officials.

The story prompted high-level conferences in the CIA, the White House, the FBI, and the State Department. But spokesmen declined to discuss any aspect of the case publicly. "The White House doesn't comment on intelligence matters," said press secretary Pierre Salinger when asked for President Johnson's reaction to the charges.

On Capitol Hill, however, the temptation was not to let the matter rest so easily. Ohio Republican John M. Ashbrook, a member of the House Un-American Activities Committee, called for an investigation into alleged lax security measures in the State Department and CIA, with Mr. Goleniewski as a witness.

How much more there was to the case, no one would say. One man who seemed to know was Ohio Democrat Michael J. Feighan, head of the House Judiciary subcommittee on immigration, which cleared the defector's application for citizenship. And he wasn't talking. Said Mr. Feighan: "I have made up my mind to say nothing at all about it."